

CLAIMS

What is claimed is

1. A method for providing electronic catalogs of information sets regarding available products for bid or purchase, said information sets containing
5 descriptive and illustrative data items for said available products, said method comprising the steps of:
providing at least two repositories of information sets and data items;
dynamically linking said information sets and data items to part numbers for available products; and
10 synchronizing contents of said repositories such that all information sets and data items within all repositories represent full information sets of most recently created data items.
2. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of synchronizing is performed on a periodic basis.
- 15 3. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of synchronizing is performed responsive to a request for said information sets in any of the repositories.
4. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a list to a user, said list having part numbers and dynamic links to said
20 information sets and data items associated with said listed part numbers.

5. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the step of saving a copy of an information set linked to a part number such that said saved copy is statically linked to said most recently created data items.
6. A computer readable medium containing program code for providing
- 5 electronic catalogs of information sets regarding available products for bid or purchase in a computer system, said information sets containing descriptive and illustrative data items for said available products, said program code when executed by a computer causing the computer to perform the steps of:
- providing at least two repositories of information sets and data items;
- 10 dynamically linking said information sets and data items to part numbers for available products; and
- synchronizing contents of said repositories such that all information sets and data items within all repositories represent full information sets of most recently created data items.
- 15 7. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said program code for synchronizing is adapted to perform synchronization on a periodic basis.
8. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said program code for synchronizing is adapted to perform synchronization responsive to a
- 20 request for said information sets in any of the repositories.
9. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 6 further comprising program code for performing the step of providing a list to a user, said list

having part numbers and dynamic links to said information sets and data items associated with said listed part numbers.

10. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said program code for further comprises program code for saving a copy of an information set linked to a part number such that said saved copy is statically linked to said most recently created data items.
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11. A dynamic catalog in a computer system comprising:
- at least two computer-readable repositories of descriptive data items;
- a plurality of dynamic links between descriptive data items and
- 10 product part numbers; and
- a repository synchronizer which dynamically updates links to descriptive data items adapted to replace links to older data items with links to newer data items, and adapted to add links to data items which were not previously available.
- 15 12. The dynamic catalog as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said repository synchronizer is adapted to replace and add links on a timed basis.
13. The dynamic catalog as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said repository synchronizer is adapted to replace and add links responsive to a request for information from said repositories.
- 20 14. The dynamic catalog as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising a offer description creator adapted to capture or copy dynamically linked data items to

a part number into a second set of descriptive data items which are statically related to said part number.

15. The dynamic catalog as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising an offer list creator adapted to create a list of part numbers associated with dynamic links to said data items.

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